

REMARKS

Claims 1, 4-7, 9, 10, 12-14, 16, 18, 19, 25-27 and 30-35 were submitted for examination. All claims have been rejected. The drawings have been objected to by the Examiner. Claims 30 and 34 have been canceled. Claims 27 and 33 have been amended. These claims are canceled or amended for the purpose of expediting prosecution, and thus does not represent an admission or acquiescence as to their unpatentability. No new matter has been added.

Reconsideration of the above-referenced patent application, as amended, is respectfully requested.

Drawing Objections

The drawings have been objected to. A set of corrected drawings are submitted with this paper. Applicant submits that the drawing objections have been overcome.

35 U.S.C. § 112 Rejection

Claims 27, 30, 33, and 34 have been rejected by the Examiner under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the enablement requirement. Claims 30 and 34 have been cancelled. Claims 27 and 33 have been amended. Applicant submits that the rejection has been overcome.

35 U.S.C. § 103(a) Rejection – Haneda et al.

Claims 9-10, 12-14, 16, and 26-27 have been rejected by the Examiner under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable by U.S. Patent No. 5,900,848 of Haneda et al. ("Haneda") in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,548,478 of Kumar et al. ("Kumar").

Independent claim 9 recites in part:

“coupling a first module to a second module to form a computer system, each of the first and the second modules having a display screen;

using the display screen of the first module and the display screen of the second module as a first viewing area to interact with a first type of applications configured to run with a computer system having the first viewing area; and
using the display screen of the first module as a second viewing area to interact with a second type of applications configured to run with a computer system having the second viewing area."

(Emphasis added).

The Examiner admitted that Haneda does not teach having viewing areas being associated with different types of applications. The Examiner, however, indicated that Kumar teaches a display panel being controlled by two different software applications related to a position of said display panel in a laptop mode or in a tablet mode, and that it would be obvious to the teaching of Kumar and Haneda to arrive at the limitations as claimed in claim 9. (Office Action, page 5, lines 16-22). Applicant disagrees.

Kumar teaches a hinge mechanism that serves as a linkage between a base unit and a display cover. The display cover includes a touch panel display screen. The display cover may pivot downwardly into a closed position and upwardly into an upright or laptop position. The display cover may pivot a full 180 degrees relative to the base unit to a slate-style position. (Col. 3, line 42 to col. 5, line 55). Applicant submits that Kumar merely teaches using the same touch panel display screen in different positions. Applicant submits that Kumar does not teach the limitations as claimed in claim 9. For example, Kumar does not teach "using the display screen of the first module and the display screen of the second module as a first viewing area to interact with a first type of applications configured to run with a computer system having the first viewing area; and using the display screen of the first module as a second viewing area to interact with a second type of applications configured to run with a computer system having the second viewing area."

Applicant submits that, at least for the above reason, neither Haneka nor Kumar, individually or in combination, teach or suggest a method as claimed in claim 9. Moreover, neither the references themselves nor the art generally contain a suggestion or motivation to combine the referenced teachings as suggested by the Examiner.

Applicant submits that the 103(a) rejection has been overcome and that claim 9 and its dependent claims 10, 12-14, 16, and 26-27 are patentable over Haneda and Kumar.

35 U.S.C. § 103(a) Rejections – Gouco & Kumar

Claims 1, 4-7, 18-19, 25, 30-32 and 35 are have been rejected by the Examiner under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,222,507 to Junichi Gouco ("Gouco") in view of Kumar.

Independent claim 1 recites in part:

"a first module coupled to a second module and a third module,
wherein a display screen of the first module, a display screen of the second module, and a display screen of the third module are to form a first viewing area when the first module is placed adjacent to the second module and the second module is placed adjacent to the third module,
wherein the display screen of the first module is to form a second viewing area when the first module is folded on top of the second module such that the display screen of the first module is visible,
and
wherein the first viewing area is associated with a first type of applications and the second viewing area is associated with a second type of applications."

(Emphasis added).

The Examiner admitted that Gouco does not teach said viewing areas being associated with different types of applications but indicated that Gouco may be combined with Kumar. (Office Action, page 6, lines 10-18). Applicant disagrees.

Applicant submits that, as provided above, Kumar does not teach the limitations claimed in claim 1. For example, Kumar does not teach "the first viewing area is associated with a first type of applications and the second viewing area is associated with a second type of applications."

Applicant submits that, at least for the above reason, neither Gouco nor Kumar, individually or in combination, teach or suggest a system as claimed in claim 1. Moreover, neither the references themselves nor the art generally contain a suggestion or motivation to combine the referenced teachings as suggested by the Examiner.

Applicant submits that the 103(a) rejection has been overcome and that claim 1 and its dependent claims 4-7 are patentable over Gouco and Kumar. For the same reason, applicant submits that independent claims 18 and 31 and their corresponding dependent claims are patentable over Gouco and Kumar.

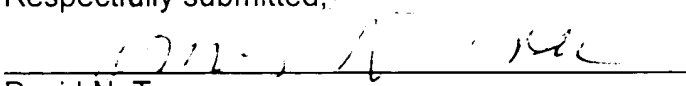
CONCLUSION

Applicant respectfully submits that the present application is in condition for allowance. If the Examiner believes a telephone conference would expedite or assist in the allowance of the present application, the Examiner is invited to call David Tran at (408) 765-4692.

Authorization is hereby given to charge our Deposit Account No. 50-0221 for any charges that may be due.

Respectfully submitted,

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